



Lockport, Nov. 2, 1865.)

Dear Wife:

Last evening I went with Mr. May to spend it with the Sedgewicks, and had a very pleasant time indeed - quite a number being present. We returned home at 11 o'clock, and at that time the moon and the stars were shining brilliantly. About midnight, the whole scene suddenly changed, and the heaviest storm of the season set in with immense violence, a perfect equinoctial gale. It blew so in the morning, that I at first came to the conclusion that I should have to remain, and give Lockport the go-by. But I got down to the depot just in season to take the train, not having a minute to spare. It was a very dismal ride all the way to this place, and the weather looked very forbidding for an evening meeting. It, however, soon cleared up. I went to the hotel, dined, and "booked" myself, and waited for somebody to call upon me.

But neither Mr. Helmer nor Mr. Gaskins was visible. At tea-time a substitute for the former came, and stated that Mr. Helmer had been called away; that Mr. Gaskins had handed me over to Mr. H., and I was not to speak before the Young Men's Christian Association; that the attendance would be very slim, almost a total failure, in consequence of the absorbing interest taken in the State election; that the Republicans were feeling shy of me, lest a friendly recognition by them should be turned against them by the Copperheads—&c., &c.

I have just returned from the meeting. There were a hundred or more present, chiefly females. The price of tickets was 30 cents—another drawback upon the attendance. The platform was far off from the audience, and the comparative emptiness of the house made every thing look cold and cheerless. I was occasionally applauded, but, to myself, my effort was very near a dead failure.

Under the circumstances, it is hardly probable that I shall get enough to pay my expenses. Nobody seems to be responsible, and, instead of realizing \$75, I shall probably not get \$20. Indeed, I know not what to ask, for the receipts will only cover expense of the hall, advertising, &c. The whole thing is a muddle and a failure. How could I speak with any zeal or interest thus situated? Nobody has called upon me; nobody spoke to me after the lecture; and I never was in a place so entirely devoid of interest and attraction. I shall leave it in the morning gladly. To-morrow evening I am to lecture in Erie; but I fear it will prove another flash in the pan, for the principal hall is occupied, and the people are all by the ears in regard to their pending election. My expenses will be much larger, and my receipts much smaller, than I calculated before starting. Lecturing is not to my taste.

Mr. May's cough gives me some anxiety for him. Every night it troubles him by its violence, being long protracted. He says it is the hardest he has ever had.

If it is possible, he will be very happy to unite Harry and Fanny in the bonds of wedlock. But I doubt, in view of his cough, whether he will be able safely to go to Boston for that purpose in January.

William can use \$26 of the Freedmen's funds, for family expenses - that being the amount of my expenses to Maine with McKim. Perhaps I mentioned this in a previous letter.

I hope to have a line from you somewhere on my journey, and to learn that all is going on well at home. My thoughts, dear wife, are with you continually, and you draw strongly upon my sympathetic feelings. I shall be most happy to get back to Rockledge.

With love to all the dear children,
Ever tenderly yours, W. L. G.